



Ocotillo

Weekly Update

A newsletter for the residents of Glendale's Ocotillo District



Councilmember Norma Alvarez

November 4, 2011

City Offices Will Close November 11, 24 and 25. City of Glendale offices will be closed for the following upcoming holidays: Friday, Nov. 11, for the Veterans Day holiday, and Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. [Click here for more details.](#)

Boards and Commissions. The Glendale City Council has appointed several residents to serve on advisory boards and commissions. Glendale's boards and commissions assist the City Council in making important policy decisions that impact the community. Congratulations to **Jessica Koory** of the Ocotillo District who was appointed to serve on the Arts Commission.

Glendale's volunteer citizen advisory groups research, study and discuss specific projects and issues and then forward their recommendations to the City Council.

Residents can request an application to serve on a citizen advisory group or obtain more information by calling the Council Office at 623-930-2249 or visiting www.glendaleaz.com/boardsandcommissions. Board and commission members must reside in Glendale.



Glendale Engineering Department Honored. The city of Glendale's Engineering Department was recently honored by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) for multiple projects the city completed in the last year.

Three projects in total were recognized; Grand Excellence Awards were bestowed to the Pedestrian/Bike Bridge at 63rd Avenue and Loop 101 and the Sahuaro Ranch Park softball complex renovation. The third Glendale design, the Oasis Groundwater Treatment Plant, was awarded the Honor Excellence Award.

The Pedestrian/Bike Bridge, which opened in May, now provides regional connectivity to the Valley's multi-use pathway system. The cable-stay bridge has 20 cables that are each 1 and 3/8-inches thick holding the bridge in place. The bridge is 260 feet across and weighs approximately 198 tons, and is the first bridge of its kind in Arizona. Another aspect of the project is a pedestrian-friendly crossing signal, called a HAWK (High-intensity Activated crossWalk specifically designed for pedestrians.

The 25-year-old Sahuaro Ranch Park softball complex was completely overhauled. The renovations and redesign focused on the lack of shade; opportunities for "green" improvements; and efficiencies in electrical, water and other costs. The design added two multi-purpose fields to the original ball field design to support youth soccer, football and other organized activities. The new design increases comfort and capacity of the seating areas for viewing events and the fields are now completely handicap accessible. In addition, the ball fields have a special soils mix engineered for increased drainage, enriched organics to cut down on fertilizers and chemicals, and a blend of materials for moisture retention to reduce the annual water consumption. The turf areas also have new sprinkler irrigation, equipped with a 'fertigation' system, allowing staff to fertilize and irrigate simultaneously. Fertigation allows the turf to absorb up to 90% of the applied nutrients, as opposed to previous rates of 10-40%.

The Oasis Groundwater Treatment Plant was a complex and technical facility, the completion of which epitomizes a four-year, 50-million-dollar project that includes a central groundwater plant at Oasis campus, six groundwater wells throughout the city and six miles of conveyance piping. This plant complements the existing Oasis Surface Water Plant,



an ACEC Grand Excellence Award, as well as the American Public Works Association (APWA) Project of the Year in 2009. The 10-million-gallon Ion Exchange (IX) plant will remove nitrate from groundwater and supply to the distribution grid. Being the largest IX plant west of the Mississippi, this landmark groundwater plant provides unprecedented flexibility, redundancy, reliability and quality to the water production portfolio for the city.

For information on Glendale's Engineering Department and the city's capitol projects, visit www.glendaleaz.com/engineering. For more information on ACEC, visit www.acec.org.

Trail Improvements at Thunderbird Paseo Park. Minor trail improvements will be conducted at Thunderbird Paseo Park on Nov. 15 by Glendale's Parks, Recreation and Library Services Department.

The improvements will be made to the park's trail system between 55th Avenue, south of Cactus Road, to 73rd Avenue and Greenway Road. The trail system will remain open during the process; however, there will be several detours around the path that will require trail users to use alternative path surfaces such as decomposed granite, turf or temporary asphalt.

The temporary path surfaces will have minimal impact on users, but all trail users should exercise extra caution when approaching trail work and using the temporary surfaces. Users are asked to observe all temporary directional signage.

For more information, call 623-930-2653.

Around Town

For the Love of Flowers - November 5. You will want to make your way to the Catlin Court District on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to enjoy a truly special day devoted to gardening. You'll be able to speak with flower experts and other local floral groups to learn everything from pruning to planting and flower care. To round out the gardening theme for the day, there will be speakers from the University of Arizona Master Gardener Program with topics including gardening for wildlife, citrus selection & care and container gardening. For more information, call 623-931-0339.

Annual Holiday Open House - November 12. The holiday season gets off to a big start in Historic Downtown Glendale with the Annual Holiday Open House scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 12, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Participating shops will be glistening and shining with all the trimmings.

Shops in Old Towne and Catlin Court will all have a special way of celebrating the Holiday Open House. Shoppers will find festive decorations, great gift selections, drawings, refreshments and much more! This is one of the most anticipated and best events of the year and shop owners pull out all the stops to make it a spectacular day. Start at the Glendale Visitor Center for an event map and the first 250 visitors will receive a free gift bag.

Many of the shops will extend their hours into the evening after the open house concludes. Come early, spend the day and get a jump start on your holiday gift and décor shopping. [Click here](#) for more information.

Teen Library Council Meeting. Are you looking for something fun to do that can actually make a difference? By becoming a Teen Library Council member, young adults can earn volunteer service hours, have a good time and meet new people, all while helping to make the library a better place for teens.

Attend the Thursday, November 17 Teen Library Council Meeting from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Velma Teague Branch Library, 7010 N. 58th Avenue. The library is currently recruiting teens, ages 12-18, to provide input on the selection of books and music for the branch's teen collection. Council members also participate in the planning and presentation of library teen events.

For more information or to register, call Greg at 623-930-3441.

City Recycling Cell Phones for Good Cause Through Nov. 30. The city of Glendale is dialing in on a good cause with its annual cell phone recycling campaign. The campaign, which coincides with America Recycles Day on Nov. 15, benefits domestic violence victims. Through Nov. 30, the public is encouraged to drop off old cell phones at any of following locations: Glendale's three public libraries, the Glendale Visitor Center in downtown Glendale, Gate 3 of Jobing.com Arena, located on the northwest corner of the building, and at Glendale Community College. [Read more](#)

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